1. (Amended) An image processing system for producing clusters of related objects for subsequent analysis comprising, means for supplying a multi-level digital representation of the image, means for identifying predetermined objects in the image and supplying data defining their locations, means for deriving segmentation data from the multi-level digital representation, means for ~~segmenting~~combining the data defining the locations of objects with the said segmentation data, means for clustering the predetermined objects into groups for each segmented region and means supplying data relating to the groups for subsequent analysis.

3. (Amended) An image processing system according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~which the objects are text objects.

4. (Amended) An image processing system according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~in which the means for supplying segmentation data from the multi-level representation comprises means for comparing differences in background data to derive segmentation data.

7. (Amended) An image processing system according to ~~any of claims 2-6~~claim 2, in which the second segmentation means derives segmentation data from the colour of the objects.

8. (Amended) An image processing system according to ~~any of claims 2-6~~claim 2, in which the second segmentation means derives segmentation data from the greyscale level of the objects.

9.   (Amended)   A method for processing images to produce clusters of related objects for subsequent analysis comprising the steps of supplying a multi-level digital representation of the image, identifying predetermined objects in the image, supplying data defining the locations of these predetermined objects, deriving segmentation data for the image from the multi-level digital representation, ~~segmenting~~combining the data defining the locations of the objects with the segmentation data, clustering the objects into groups for each segmented region, and supplying data relating to the groups for subsequent analysis.

11.   (Amended)   A method according to ~~claims 9 or 10~~claim 9, in which the objects are text objects.

12.   (Amended)   A method according to ~~claim 9 or 10~~claim 9, in which the step of supplying segmentation data for the multi-level digital representation comprises comparing differences in background data to determine segmentation data.

1.   (Amended)   An image processing system for producing clusters of related objects for subsequent analysis comprising, means for supplying a multi-level digital representation of the image, means for identifying predetermined objects in the image and supplying data defining their locations, means for deriving segmentation data from the multi-level digital representation, means for combining the data defining the locations of objects with the said segmentation data, means for clustering the predetermined objects into groups for each segmented region and means supplying data relating to the groups for subsequent analysis.

2.   An image processing system according to claim 1 comprising second segmentation means receiving the multi-level representation of the image and the data identifying the locations of the objects in the image to derive segmentation data relating to differences in the data of the multi-level representation from the said objects, and wherein the segmenting means receives this segmentation data and further segments the data defining locations of object image in dependence on this segmentation data.

3.   (Amended)   An image processing system according to claim 1 which the objects are text objects.

4.   (Amended)   An image processing system according to claim 1, in which the means for supplying segmentation data from the multi-level representation comprises means for comparing differences in background data to derive segmentation data.

5.   An image processing system according to claim 4 in which the background data comprises colour data.

6.   An image processing system according to claim 4 in which the background data comprises greyscale data.

7.   (Amended) An image processing system according to claim 2, in which the second segmentation means derives segmentation data from the colour of the objects.

8.   (Amended) An image processing system according to claim 2, in which the second segmentation means derives segmentation data from the greyscale level of the objects.

9.   (Amended) A method for processing images to produce clusters of related objects for subsequent analysis comprising the steps of supplying a multi-level digital representation of the image, identifying predetermined objects in the image, supplying data defining the locations of these predetermined objects, deriving segmentation data for the image from the multi-level digital representation, combining the data defining the locations of the objects with the segmentation data, clustering the objects into groups for each segmented region, and supplying data relating to the groups for subsequent analysis.

10.   A method according to claim 9 further comprising the steps of receiving the multi-level digital representation of the image and the data identifying the location of the objects in the image and deriving additional segmentation data relating to differences in the data of the multi-level representation for the said objects, and wherein the segmenting step further segments the data defining the locations of objects in dependence on this additional segmentation data.

11.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 9, in which the objects are text objects.

12.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 9, in which the step of supplying segmentation data for the multi-level digital representation comprises comparing differences in background data to determine segmentation data.

13.   A method according to claim 11 in which the background data comprises colour data.

14.   A method according to claim 12 in which the background data comprises greyscale data.